

# **Office of Selectmen**

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## **STATEMENT OF POLICY**

### **No. 2**

#### **RECOMMENDED MINIMUMS FOR PRIVATE ROADS**

After inspecting private roads and upon input from the Fire Department, Road Agent and Police Department regarding of the need to accommodate emergency and other vehicles, it is recommended owners of private roads consider the following minimums for private roads to insure use by emergency and highway vehicles and equipment in a safe and expedient manner:

1. Width of traveled way: sixteen (16) feet, minimum;
2. Road shoulders: five (5) feet, minimum;
3. Minimum overhead clearance (branches, limbs, wires): thirteen feet, six inches (13' 6");
4. Provide turnaround area at dead end roads to accommodate vehicle that is thirty-five (35) feet in length, or greater;
5. Grade roads to eliminate crown over six (6) inches;
6. Provide street name signs to direct emergency vehicles;
7. Provide adequate culverts where required (culverts at least twelve inch in diameter, minimum); culverts kept clear of obstructions;
8. Check all grades and changes in grades to insure that a thirty-five (35) foot long or greater vehicle can safely negotiate the roadway; and,
9. Check all sharp turns, curves and blind areas to insure a thirty-five (35) foot long or greater vehicle can safely negotiate the roadway.

It is our strong recommendation that these minimums be established and maintained because personnel and equipment safety, as well as emergency response times, are significantly impacted by road conditions. Additional guidance is available by consulting NFPA1, Uniform Fire Code, Chapter 18, which standard we incorporate in this policy by reference.

Any injury or equipment damage encountered during emergency responses resulting from inadequate private roads will receive review by the appropriate department head(s) and the Board of Selectmen and such civil recovery action undertaken as provided for in state law.

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This policy is effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1993 by order of the Board of Selectmen.

Tina C. Borrin, Chairman  
Ernest E. Davis, Jr.  
Edwin A. Wakefield

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

This Policy received review, revision and update on September 21, 2006

Karel A. Crawford, Chairman  
Edward J. Charest  
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN